

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7 and 8 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Mitchell at the interview held July 17, 2006, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Biggerstaff (U.S. Patent No. 6,745,384) in view of Grundy ("Aspect Oriented Requirements Engineering for Component Based Software Systems"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the interview, none of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a method for simplifying an aspect oriented programming element that includes simplifying the programming element by reducing the programming element to a canonical expression, and determining at least one propagator for the current stage simplified programming element, the propagator incrementing the value of the projections, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claims 7 and 8. Support for this feature can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0038]. Such an incrementation is useful, when used on a projection designed to count the number of times a particular expression is used, as also indicated, for example, in paragraph [0038].

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 7 and 8, and their dependent claims, are patentable over the applied references. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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